

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A method for supplying power to at least one load during failure of a main voltage source, wherein batteries serve as an emergency voltage source supply to the at least one load during failure of the main voltage source and are connected to the main voltage source, the method comprising:

splitting the batteries into at least two battery groups, with the batteries of each group being connected in series;
connecting each of the battery groups in parallel to the main voltage source for charging,
and
connecting the battery groups in series to the load for use as the emergency voltage source,

wherein splitting the battery groups and connecting the battery groups in parallel to the main voltage source comprises doing so using a single switching device, and wherein the battery groups and the load are decoupled from the main voltage source by a diode device with at least one diode arrangement therebetween.

2-21. (Cancelled)

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein connecting the battery groups in series to the load for use as the emergency voltage source comprises doing so by having the switching device switch over into a state different from a state in which the batteries groups are split.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, further comprising having the

switching device switch over into the different state automatically upon the failure of the main voltage source.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising limiting a charge voltage on the battery groups using a charge-voltage limiting circuit.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising interrupting further discharging of the battery groups using an exhaustive discharge protective circuit after the battery groups have discharged to a specified value.

26. (Currently Amended) A device for supplying power to at least one load during failure of a main voltage source, the device comprising:

batteries connected so as to be connected in series to deliver power to the at least one load during failure of the main voltage source;

a splitting circuit configured to split the batteries into at least two battery groups, with the batteries of each battery group being connected in series; and

a connection circuit configured to connect each of the battery groups in parallel to the main voltage source,

wherein a single switching device provides both the splitting circuit and the connection circuit, and wherein a diode device for decoupling is connected between the main voltage source and the battery groups, said diode device comprising at least one diode connected in a connecting line to the main voltage source.

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 26, wherein the switching device is configured to connect the battery groups in parallel for charging and in series for supplying power to the load.

29. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 26, wherein the switching device

comprises at least one relay.

30. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 29, wherein contacts of the relay are arranged in a release state during failure of the main voltage source, such that the battery groups are connected in series to supply power to the load.

31. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 26, wherein a resistance for charging is assigned to each battery group.

32. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 26, wherein each battery group comprises the same number of batteries.

33. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 26, further comprising a charge-voltage limiting circuit connected in parallel with each of the battery groups.

34. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 26, further comprising an exhaustive discharge protection circuit connected to the battery groups.

35. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 26, wherein the splitting circuit comprises at least a first transistor configured as an electronic switch.

36. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 35, wherein the battery groups are connected to feeder lines of the main voltage source or the load by second and third transistors.

37. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 36, wherein a constant current source is connected between the second transistor and an associated battery group.

38.-39. (Cancelled)